

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 DPW-01

OMB-01 EB-11 TRSE-00 CU-04 SIL-01 LAB-06 DRC-01 SR-02

ORM-03 /195 W

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O R 111245Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4132

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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AMCONSUL CAN THO

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CGFMFPAC
CGUSARSUPTHAI
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COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
7/13 AF
7TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG
III MAF
CINCPACAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 13777

JOINT EMBASSY/DAO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, CB
SUBJECT: KHMER REPORT - DECEMBER 11,1973

GENERAL

1. ONE OF THE GKR'S MOST PRESSING CONCERNS WAS REMOVED
THIS WEEK WHEN THE UNGA VOTED ON DECEMBER 5 TO DEFER
THE CHALLENGE TO GKR CREDENTIALS UNTIL NEXT YEAR'S

SESSION. ELIMINATION OF THIS RESTRAINT UPON INTERNAL
POLITICKING, HOWEVER, IN ADDITION TO PRECIPITATING THE
LONG-EXPECTED RESIGNATION OF THE IN TAM GOVERNMENT, HAS
ALREADY RESULTED IN INCREASED ACTIVITY BY DEPUTIES AND
OTHER DISSATISFIED GROUPS. A SHARP INCREASE IN PRICES
OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MAY CAUSE FURTHER DISCONTENT.
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MEANWHILE SIHANOUK, SOMEWHAT TARDILY IN VIEW OF THE UNGA
DECISION ON DEFERMENT, ANNOUNCED THE NAMES OF THE 5 NEW
MEMBERS OF HIS RECENTLY CONSTITUTED IN-COUNTRY CABINET
ON DECEMBER 9. ALL BUT ONE ARE BELIEVED TO BE COMMUNISTS
THUS FURTHER CONFIRMING THE CONCLUSION THAT SIHANOUK HAS
LOST GROUND TO THE KC IN THIS EXCHANGE. ACTIVITY ON THE
MILITARY FRONT CENTERED IN THE KAMPONG SPEU AREA
WHERE THE ENEMY RESISTED FANK EFFORTS TO REOPENING

ROUTE 4 AND MOVED CLOSER TO THE CITY ITSELF.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. THE DECISION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO DEFER THE KHMER REPRESENTATION ISSUE UNTIL NEXT YEAR'S SESSION (SEE PARA 6 BELOW), AFTER A LONG PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY AND CONCERN, WAS GREETED IN PHNOM PENH WITH RELIEF AND SATISFACTION TEMPERED BY THE RECOGNITION THAT MANY OTHER PROBLEMS REMAIN TO BE FACED. PRESIDENT LON NOL, IN A DECEMBER 10 RADIO ADDRESS, DESCRIBED THE VOTE AS A "RINGING VICTORY" WHICH DEMONSTRATES THE EXTENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE KHMER REPUBLIC THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND ESPECIALLY AMONG THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA. THE GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED PRESS, HOWEVER, WAS LESS ENTHUSIASTIC, POINTING OUT THAT THE SAME PROBLEM MUST BE FACED AGAIN IN ONE MORE YEAR AND IT IS THUS NECESSARY FOR THE GKR TO CONSOLIDATE ITS POSITION BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD. IN ORDER TO DO THIS, ONE PAPER DECLARED, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO ELIMINATE ALL TRACES OF CLANISM, NEPOTISM, SELFISHNESS, AND PERSONAL AMBITION AND JOIN TOGETHER TO DEFEND THE NATION.

3. A BY-PRODUCT OF THE RESOLUTION OF THE REPRESENTATION ISSUE FOR THIS YEAR IS THE REMOVAL OF A MAJOR RESTRAINT UPON POLITICAL ACTIVITY. THE RESIGNATION OF THE IN TAM CABINET, WHICH HAD BEEN DELAYED LARGELY TO AVOID A GOVERNMENT CRISIS DURING THE UN DEBATE, WAS MADE PUBLIC BUT NOT OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED BY THE KHMER NATIONAL RADIO ON THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 10. NEGOTIATIONS ARE CURRENTLY UNDERWAY TO FORM A NEW CABINET. IN THE MEANTIME IN TAM WILL STAY ON IN A CARETAKER STATUS. THE HIGH
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POLITICAL COUNCIL WILL ALSO REMAIN BUT AS A TRIUMVIRATE. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN AN UPSURGE OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY WITHIN LON NOL'S SOCIO-REPUBLICAN PARTY AS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES AND A NUMBER OF OTHER YOUNGER MEMBERS CHALLENGE THE CURRENT PARTY LEADERSHIP. IN RESPONSE TO THEIR PRESSURES THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED THAT A NATIONAL CONGRESS BE HELD IN JANUARY TO ELECT A NEW PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

4. OTHER GROUPS SUCH AS STUDENTS, TEACHERS, UNEMPLOYED JOURNALISTS, AND FACTORY WORKERS MAY WELL FIND THE NEW ATMOSPHERE MORE CONDUCIVE FOR EXPRESSIONS OF DISCONTENT. THE PRESIDENT HAS IN FACT RECEIVED REPORTS THAT A STUDENT STRIKE IS IN THE MAKING. TO HELP PREVENT SUCH OUTBURSTS, THE PALACE PLANS TO MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT EXPLAINING THE REASONS

FOR INCREASES IN THE PRICE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, WARNING
SPECULATORS AGAINST FOLLOWING UP WITH UNJUSTIFIED PRICE
INCREASE, ANNOUNCING A NEW PROGRAM OF PROVIDING FREE
SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR STUDENTS AND NOTING THAT SALARY INCREASES ARE
UNDER STUDY.

5. CONSCRIPTION AND RECRUITMENT CONTINUED TO FALTER
DESPITE THE DECEMBER 3 DECISION TO TAKE CORRECTIVE ACTION
(KR 11/4/73). THE DAILY AVERAGE NUMBER OF RECRUITS
OVER THE PAST WEEK FELL TO 42, WITH LOWS OF 15 AND 35
FOR THE LAST TWO DAYS. IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH THIS

SITUATION SEVERAL KHAND CHIEFS IN PHNOM PENH HAVE HELD
MEETINGS OF ALL LOCAL OFFICIALS UNDER THEIR JURISDICTION
AND THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT PHNOM PENH MAYOR
UN TRAMUCH MAY BE REPLACED BY A MORE COMPETENT AND
FORCEFUL MAN. A SERIOUS EFFORT TO ROUNDUP DRAFT EVADERS,
MANY OF WHOM HAVE REPORTEDLY FLED TO THE PROVINCES, HAS
YET TO BE UNDERTAKEN, HOWEVER.

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ACTION EA-14

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL UDORN
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
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POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

6. AFTER A TWO-DAY DEBATE THE UNGA ON DECEMBER 5 APPROVED
BY A VOTE OF 53 TO 50 WITH 21 ABSTENTIONS A LIBERIAN
MOTION TO POSTPONE THE KHMER REPRESENTATION ISSUE UNTIL
THE NEXT SESSION. THE DECISION WAS AN IMPORTANT DEFENSIVE
SUCCESS AGAINST THE SERIOUS CHALLENGE MOUNTED ON BEHALF OF
SIHANOUK AND GRUNK BY 33 "NON-ALIGNED" AND COMMUNIST
NATIONS. SIHANOUK SUPPORTERS REFUSED ANY COMPROMISE
AND DEMANDED THAT THE GKR BE REPLACED BY GRUNK. MANY NATIONS,
HOWEVER, APPEARED TO WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO SIDESTEP A

CONFRONTATION ON THIS VOLATILE ISSUE BY VOTING FOR DEFERMENT.

GRUNK/FUNK

7. THIS WEEK GRUNK FINALLY MOVED, BUT NOT ALTOGETHER CONVINCINGLY, TO MAKE GOOD ON THE SIHANOUK ANNOUNCEMENT OF NOVEMBER 9 THAT ALL MINISTERIAL TITLES IN HIS GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED TO PERSONS INSIDE CAMBODIA. THE ACTION WAS SOMEWHAT TARDY, COMING IN THE WAKE OF THE ALREADY COMPLETED VOTE ON KHMER REPRESENTATION IN THE UNGA (SEE ABOVE ITEM). IN ANNOUNCING THE NEW MINISTERS AND NOTIFYING ACTING PRIME MINISTER KHIEU SAMPHAN OF HIS APPROVAL SIHANOUK INDICATED THAT GRUNK CAN NO LONGER BE CALLED A GOVERNMENT IN CONFIDENTIAL

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EXILE BECAUSE IT IS "ENTIRELY" BASED ON "NATIONAL SOIL". BY EMBASSY COUNT, THE GRUNK CABINET NOW NUMBERS ELEVEN MEMBERS, NINE OF WHICH ARE IN-COUNTRY (THE AILING PRIME MINISTER PENN NOUTH AND FOREIGN MINISTER SARIN CHHAK ARE APPARENTLY STILL IN THE PRC). THE CHANGES BROUGHT FOUR NEW FACES INTO THE CABINET (THIOUNN THOEUN, TOCH PHOEUN, CHOU CHET, MADAME IENG SARY) AND GAVE A SPECIFIC PORTFOLIO TO NORDOM PHURISSARA. ALL OF THE NINE IN-COUNTRY MINISTERS ARE KNOWN TO HAVE LITTLE LOVE FOR SIHANOUK AND ALL BUT PHURISSARA ARE BELIEVED TO BE COMMUNISTS. FURTHERMORE, THE PORTFOLIOS TRANSFERRED WERE TAKEN FROM PERSONS WE BELIEVE TO BE SIHANOUKISTS. FIVE PORTFOLIOS OR MINISTERIAL POSITIONS WERE NOT CARRIED OVER TO THE NEW CABINET, AND THE DISPOSITION OF THOSE HOLDING THESE POSITIONS IS NOT YET KNOWN. COMMENT: WE DRAW THE CLEAR CONCLUSION THAT SIHANOUK HAS LOST FURTHER GROUND TO THE KC AS A RESULT OF THE CHANGES.

8. THE GRUNK/FUNK PROPAGANDA MEDIA HAVE BEEN SILENT TO DATE ON THEIR UNGA DEFEAT. SIHANOUK HIMSELF, HOWEVER, ON DECEMBER 9 FIRED OFF A TELEGRAM FROM CANTON TO THE TOKYO AFP BUREAU SHARPLY CRITICIZING "PRO-U.S." ASIAN COUNTRIES FOR SUPPORTING THE GKR. HE WAS PARTICULARLY STRIDENT ABOUT JAPANESE "NEO-IMPERIALISM", DECLARING THAT JAPAN HAD NO RIGHT TO SPEAK IN THE NAME OF ASIA. CLAIMING THAT A FAVORABLE UN DECISION WOULD HAVE FORCED THE U.S. TO DROP LON NOL, HE CHARGED THAT THE DEFERRAL HAS THE "TRAGIC EFFECT" OF PROLONGING FOR A YEAR THE SUFFERING OF THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE. HE DENIED THAT NORTH VIET-NAM WAS CURRENTLY TAKING PART IN MILITARY OPERATIONS IN CAMBODIA, AND ACCUSED THE U.S. OF BEING THE ONLY COUNTRY INTERFERING IN KHMER AFFAIRS.

9. AKI ANNOUNCED DECEMBER 6 THAT SIHANOUK HAD SENT A MESSAGE TO KHIEU SAMPHAN CONGRATULATING HIM ON RECENT KC VICTORIES, INCLUDING THE CAPTURE OF VIHEAR SUOR. TAKING A LESS CAUTIOUS LINE THAN RECENT GRUNK/FUNK PROPAGANDA, SIHANOUK CLAIMED THAT THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE "UNDER THE BANNER OF THE FUNK ARE EVEN IN A

POSITION TO LIBERATE PHNOM PENH IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE AND
TO REGAIN TOTAL INDEPENDENCE FOR OUR BELOVED FATHERLAND". FUNK
RADIO DEVOTED MUCH ATTENTION TO WHAT IT DESCRIBED AS THE
GREAT SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FALL OF VIHEAR SUOR, AND THE
ALLEGED HEAVY PRESSURE MOUNTED BY THE KC AGAINST FANK AT
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KAMPONG SPEU, TAKEO, ALONG ROUTE 4 AND ELSEWHERE. IT PROMISED
AN "EVEN STRONGER OFFENSIVE" LATER IN THE DRY SEASON.

10. THE RADIO ALSO "INTERVIEWED" PICH LIM PHUON, THE
FORMER FANK PILOT WHO BOMBED CHAMCAR MON ON NOVEMBER 19 IN
AN ATTEMPT TO KILL LON NOL. KHUON CLAIMED THAT HIS "INTENTION
WAS TO KILL ALL THE TRAITORS" WHO, ACCORDING
TO HIM, "HAVE BETRAYED THE NATION AND SOLD IT AT DIRT-COST"
TO THE UNITED STATES. HE MADE THE USUAL ACCUSATIONS OF
CORRUPTION AND NEPOTISM WITHIN THE "TRAITOROUS CLIQUE", AND
PRAISED THE ALLEGED PATRIOTISM AND BRAVERY OF THE "PEOPLE,
COMBATANTS AND CADRE OF THE LIBERATED ZONE".
HE DECLARED HIMSELF READY TO SERVE FUNK WITH ALL HIS
ABILITY, AND CALLED ON HIS FORMER COLLEAGUES TO FOLLOW HIS
EXAMPLE IN ATTEMPTING TO ASSASSINATE GKR LEADERS.

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AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AVYMBASSY SEOUL 767
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
USIA WASHDC
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AMCONSUL UDORN
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AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
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AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
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COMUSSAG
III MAF
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 13777

11. THE SO-CALLED "INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR SOLIDARITY WITH
THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE" MET IN PARIS ON DECEMBER 8 - 9. PHAM VAN
DONG AND NGUYEN HUU THO SENT MESSAGES ON BEHALF OF THE DRV AND
NFL RESPECTIVELY, WISHING THE CONFERENCE SUCCESS, DECLARING THEIR

SUPPORT FOR GRUNK/FUNK AND ACCUSING THE U.S. OF INTERVENTION AND AGGRESSION THROUGHOUT INDOCHINA. THE DRV DELEGATION TO THE CONFERENCE WAS HEADED BY MINISTER PHAN ANH AND THE NFTJ DESIGNATED NGUYEN VAN HIEU TO REPRESENT IT-4

12. AKI ANNOUNCED ON DECEMBER 6 THAT SIHANOUK HAD INFORMED THE "INTERNATIONAL PRESS" THAT THE STATE OF QATAR "OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZES" SIHANOUK AND GRUNK AS THE "LEGAL HEAD OF STATE AND LEGAL GOVERNMENT" OF CAMBODIA. THE NOVEMBER 25 NJSSAMVQROM THE AMIR TO SIHANOUK ASSURED HIM OF QATAR'S SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT. IT SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT IN THE UNGA VOTE OF DECEMBER 5 QATAR ABSTAINED.

13. ON DECEMBER 4, FUNK RADIO BROADCAST IN CAMBODIAN AN APPEAL BY SOS MAN, THE FUNK "REPRESENTATIVE OF CAMBODIAN MUSLEMS", TO HIS "CAMBODIAN MUSLEM COUNTRYMEN". SOS MAN DESCRIBED THE ROLE TO BE PLAYED BY CAMBODIAN MUSLEMS IN FUNK, THE IMPORTANCE FUNK ALLEGEDLY ATTACHES TO IMPROVING CONFIDENTIAL
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THE LOT OF MUSLEMS, THE "EXTREME SUFFERING" MUSLEMS ARE UNDERGOING IN AREAS CONTROLLED BY HDCN NOL, AND THE SACRILEGES HE CLAIMS THE MUSLEM RELIGION HAS SUFFERED AT THE HANDS OF THE GKR. SOS MAN APPEALED FOR UNITY AMONG CAMBODIAN MUSLEMS TO AID FUNK IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE GKR.

ECONOMIC

14. THE MOST NOTABLE EVENT OF THE PAST WEEK WAS A GKR DECISION TO RAISE PRICES OF POL PRODUCTS. GASOLINE INCREASED FROM 28 TO 68 RIELS PER LITER, KEROSENE 18-38 RIELS, AUTOMOTIVE DIESEL FROM 18-40, INDUSTRIAL DIESEL FROM 17-40 AND FUEL OIL FOR THE POWER PLANT FROM 12-23. PRICE INCREASES WERE NECESSARY TO MAKE RETAIL POL PRICES REALISTIC, PROVIDE ADDITIONAL REVENUE SUR THE BUDGET, AND CURB POL CONSUMPTION. THE GKR HAS ALSO ESTABLISHED A NATIONAL POL COMMITTEE WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM VARIOUS MINISTRIES, MAJOR CONSUMER GROUPS, OIL COMPANIES, --, \$ 5#3 7.S. EMBASSY TO MONITOR FUEL PROCUREMENT AND END USE. THE COMMITTEE HAS INSTITUTED A PROGRAM WHICH IS DESIGNED TO REDUCE GASOLINE CONSUMPTION BY 50 PERCENT, CONSUMPTION OF FUEL FOR GENERATION OF ELECTRICITY BY 30 PERCENT AND OTHER FUEL BY 25 PERCENT.

15. RICE STOCKS CONTINUE TO CREEP UPWARD. AS OF DECEMBER 9, PHNOM PENH HAD 7,794 M/T OF RICE IN STOCK OR ABOUT 1) \$-6 ' SUPPLY. BETWEEN DECEMBER 10 AND 20 APPROXIMATELY 20,000 M/T OF KOREAN AND VIETNAMESE RICE ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE. IN ADDITION,

KOMPONG SOM HAS RECEIVED 9,000 M/T OF KOREAN AND R RICE.

MILITARY

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16. THE FOCAL POINT OF ZEMY AND FRIENDLY ACTIOCI DURING
G THE PAST WEEK WAS AROUND KAMPONG SPEU AND THE RTE 4 CUT
SOUTHWEST

J THAT CITY. FANK FORCES MADE NO SIGNIFICANT
PROGRESS IN THEIR EFFORT TO REOPEN THE ROAD PARTLY AS A
RESULT OF STIFF ENEMY RESISTANCE CUT ALSO BECAUSE OF THE
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ALTERATION OF MISSIONS AND MOVEMENT OF FRIENDLY UNIT PARTICIPATING IN THE OPERATION. ENEMY FORCES MEANWHILE MOVED
CLOSER TO KAMPONG SPEU ITSELF, INITIATING SEVERAL INCIDENTS WITHIN A 3 KM RADIUS OF THE CITY, AND MAINTAINED THEIR THREAT
AGAINST RT 4 TO THE EAST BETWEEN KAMPONG SPEU AND PHNOM PENH.

17. THE SITUATION IN TAKEO STABILIZED CONSIDERABLY DESPITE
CONTINUED ENEMY PRESSURE AROUND THE PERIMETER. A NEW
THREAT DEVELOPED, HOWEVER, IN KAMPOT, FURTHER TO THE
SOUTH IN THE 2ND MILITARY REGION WPGN ENEMY FORCES CUT
RT 3 BETWEEN KAMPOT AND THE CEMENT FACTORY TO THE
NORTHEAST. FANK OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT THE WEEK WERE
UNSUCCESSFUL IN REOPENING THE ROAD ALTHOUGH THEY RESULTED
IN FANK'S STRATEGY IN THE KAMPOT AREA THE SITUATION IS
EXPECTED TO DETERIORATE AND BECOME MORE CRITICAL.
ENDERS

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